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Lucknow to get 'London Eye'

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LUCKNOW: The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) has started the work to install a giant Ferris wheel like the London Eye on the banks of river Gomati in Lucknow.

The wheel will be part of the ambitious 12 km Gomti riverfront development and beautification project. The deadline to complete the project is December 2013. According to the LDA officials, chief minister Akhilesh Yadav has expressed keenness to build a giant wheel like the London Eye, in Lucknow. This would provide a bird's eye view of the city. The wheel is expected to be of 30 meters diameter with airconditioned cabins with audiovisual facilities, each having capacity of around eight people. The wheel would take three rounds in an hour.

The LDA officials said that experts from IIT-Roorkee have been asked to conduct a feasibility and hydrological study of the site. The team has to submit a report in four months. The specifications would be decided when the IIT team submits its report. A landscape architect would thereafter prepare the layout plan of landscaping on both the sides of the river. A Ferris wheel is also known as an observation wheel or big wheel. It is a non building structure consisting of a rotating upright wheel with passenger boxes attached to the rim in such a way that as the wheel turns, the boxes are kept upright by gravity.

The officials said the Gomti riverfront project is inspired by the Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project in Ahmadabad and would include development of parks, walking tracks, a cycle track, public utilities along the river and boating facilities. The LDA is also taking help from the agencies associated with the Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project for Gomti project.